

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

|                                      |   |                      |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| In the Matter of the Revocation      | ) |                      |
|                                      | ) |                      |
| or Suspension of the Educator        | ) | <b>ORDER</b>         |
|                                      | ) |                      |
| Certificate of Wendie A. Schweikert, | ) | <b>OF REVOCATION</b> |
|                                      | ) |                      |
| Certificate 182327                   | ) |                      |

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 12, 2006. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. §1-23-370(c) (2004), the State Board summarily suspended the educator certificate of Wendie A. Schweikert on March 8, 2006, based on allegations of misconduct that resulted in Ms. Schweikert's arrest and resignation from Laurens County School District Fifty-five on February 24, 2006. The State Department of Education (Department) notified Ms. Schweikert of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate, by hand-delivered letter on March 15, 2006. Ms. Schweikert did not request a hearing within the time frame specified in the notice letter. After considering the information presented, the State Board voted to revoke Ms. Schweikert's certificate.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Ms. Schweikert holds a valid South Carolina certificate and has over nine years of teaching experience. During the 2005-06 school year, Ms. Schweikert was employed as a fifth grade teacher at E.B. Morse Elementary School in Laurens County School District Fifty-five (District). On February 24, 2006, Ms. Schweikert was arrested in Laurens County on two counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, Second Degree, based on allegations that Ms. Schweikert had sexual relations with an eleven-year old male student. On February 24, 2006, Ms. Schweikert resigned from her employment with the District. Two additional arrest warrants

have since been issued by the Greenville County Police Department for Second Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct and Performing a Lewd Act on a Child under 16 years.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State or the United States, immorality, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that there is sufficient information to support the conclusion that just cause exists to revoke the educator certificate of Ms. Schweikert. Should Ms. Schweikert ever wish to reapply for certification, she may not do so until after April 12, 2009. To be eligible for certification at that time, Ms. Schweikert must meet all current certification requirements and she must submit to a character and fitness review by the State Board.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/Joe Isaac  
Joe Isaac, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
April 12, 2006